

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 25, 2003, has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

As a result of the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Moreover, claims 1 and 3-4 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith. However, claim 2 is indicated to be allowable, for which, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for such early indication of allowable subject matter, if amended to overcome those Section 112, second paragraph rejections, and rewritten in independent form. By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, and claims 2 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice. Moreover, all those Section 112, second paragraph, rejections have been overcome and Applicant believes claim 1 is now in compliance with the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, and MPEP 2173. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Claim 3 is dependent from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed September 25, 2003, has been addressed and it is believed that claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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